

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/679,470

Examiner

Carlos Lugo

Applicant(s)

DELANGE ET AL.

Art Unit

3677

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed on April 26, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 11,13-17 and 28.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 03 September 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Reasons For Allowance

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 11,13 and 28 are allowable over the prior art of record because the teachings of the references taken as a whole do not teach or render obvious the combination set forth, including that the connector includes a back up ring (claim 11 and 28) or a compression ring (claim 13).

Church (US 4,696,498) discloses a connection comprising a pin (54) having pin threads, formed externally and extending along a frustoconical surface from a starting point and terminating adjacent the pin end. That external surface has an outside diameter no greater than the outside diameter of a major length of the pin member. The pin includes a pin nose at the free end having an inclined nose section.

A box member (54) includes a threaded surface to be engaged with the pin-threaded surface. This box-threaded surface extends along a frustoconical surface from a starting point and terminating adjacent the box end or in the opposite direction of the pin threaded surface. The box includes an annular inclined shoulder formed internally the box.

An external seal is located between the pin and the box element. It is located adjacent the starting point of the pin threaded surface and the box end.

An internal seal is located adjacent the starting point of the box threaded surface and the pin end. The pin and box threads are confined between the external and internal seals.

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However, Church fails to disclose that the external seal comprises an annular elastomeric seal disposed between the pin and the box. Church discloses that the elastomeric seal, the external seal, is located at the middle and at the end of the threaded connection.

Feisthamel (US 1,590,357) teaches that is known in the art to have an external seal that includes an annular elastomeric seal (13) disposed between the pin and the box.

However, the combination fails to disclose the use of a back-up ring or compression ring to give more strength to the threaded connection.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carlos Lugo whose telephone number is 703-305-9747. The examiner can normally be reached on 9-6pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel Stodola can be reached on 703-308-2686. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-306-5771.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel P. Stodola". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the main body of text.

Carlos Lugo
AU 3677

May 3, 2004.

DANIEL P. STODOLA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600